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Op-Ed

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Murtha on Joint Finance Committee's Medical Assistance Budget Decision

“The recent decision by Republicans in the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Finance to remove the Governor’s proposed changes to FamilyCare, IRIS, and ADRCs from the 2015-17 budget makes me proud for several reasons.

First and foremost, I am proud of the communities I represent. I received hundreds of letters, emails, phone calls, and petition signatures about this issue. During my budget listening sessions this was the hottest topic. Even those who would not be personally affected by the change picked up a phone or a pen on behalf of those who would.

Second, I am proud of my fellow legislators, especially the members of Republican leadership. We all realize that medical assistance costs are growing at an unsustainable rate and that those costs must be addressed. But, we also realize that the proposal from the Governor was unacceptable. Many members of the Senate and Assembly spent long hours forming a new plan which preserves self-directed care, ADRC services, and requires public and stakeholder input. It also requires strong legislative oversight.

Finally, I am proud of our legislative process. The Assembly is the closest body to the voice of the people, and the people of Wisconsin sure made their voices heard. Through them, the Assembly and Senate asserted themselves, and ensured that any further changes to services for our most needy will be scrutinized closely by the people and their chosen representatives.

The legislature will continue to modify this budget to align it with the view of our citizens. If you have any questions or comments you would like to share, please contact my office at any time at (608) 266-7683 or Rep.Murtha@legis.wisconsin.gov.”

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